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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

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CANADIAN COTTON CONSUMPTION
DROPS SLIGHTLY IN NOVEMBER

Canadian cotton consumption in November 1958 was 31,000 bales (500 pounds gross). This was a decline of 3 percent from the 32,000 bales used in both October 1958 and November 1957.

Consumption during August-November 1958 totaled 124,000 bales, against 129,000 bales in August-November 1957.

U. S. TOBACCO EXPORTS RISE IN OCTOBER

U. S. exports of unmanufactured tobacco in October 1958, at 83.6 million pounds, were 12.4 percent above October 1957. The value of October 1958 exports, at \$63.1 million was 12.3 percent larger. Exports of all types except Virginia fire-cured, Green River, One Sucker and cigar binder were larger in October 1958 than a year earlier. Burley, Maryland, and cigar filler exports were each more than double exports of these types in October 1957.

In January-October 1958, however, total exports of unmanufactured tobacco were 7.8 percent below those for the same 10 months of 1957. The value, at \$277.1 million this year, was 5.4 percent below the value for the corresponding 1957 period.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: U. S. exports, by type and export weight, January-October 1957 and 1958, with percent change

Type	October		Percent change	January-October		Percent change
	1957	1958		1957	1958	
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent
Flue-cured.....	67,548	74,545	+ 10.4	341,378	309,018	- 9.5
Burley.....	1,291	2,908	+125.3	18,211	23,790	+ 30.6
Dark-fired Ky.-Tenn.: 2,022	2,022	2,489	+ 23.1	18,264	17,510	- 4.1
Va. fire-cured <u>1/</u>	227	163	- 28.2	4,509	3,997	- 11.4
Maryland.....	749	1,500	+100.3	10,751	9,218	- 14.3
Green River.....	68	29	- 57.4	1,428	1,005	- 29.6
One Sucker.....	20	16	- 20.0	2,523	629	- 75.1
Black Fat, etc.....	471	510	+ 8.3	3,452	4,006	+ 16.0
Cigar wrapper.....	253	310	+ 22.5	3,816	4,332	+ 13.5
Cigar binder.....	1,063	90	- 91.5	2,447	1,573	- 35.7
Cigar filler.....	8	21	+162.5	96	216	+125.0
Other.....	666	1,039	+ 56.0	3,736	3,446	- 7.8
Total.....	74,386	83,620	+ 12.4	410,611	378,740	- 7.8
Declared value (million dollars).....	56.2	63.1	+ 12.3	293.0	277.1	- 5.4

1/ Includes sun-cured.

Compiled from records of the Bureau of the Census.

U. S. exports of tobacco products in October 1958 totaled \$8.1 million by value--up 44.6 percent from October a year ago. Exports of cigarettes were up 48.6 percent. Bulk and packaged tobacco both gained. From January through October 1958, exports of all products except chewing tobacco and snuff were larger than in January-October 1957.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS: U. S. exports, October and January-October 1957 and 1958, with percent change

Products and value	October		Percent change	January-October		Percent change
	1957	1958		1957	1958	
Cigars and cheroots (1,000 pieces).....	1,075	988	- 8.1	7,220	7,940	+10.0
Cigarettes (million pieces).....	1,220	1,813	+ 48.6	13,705	15,246	+11.2
Chewing and snuff (1,000 pounds).....	179	95	-46.9	1,244	990	-20.4
Smoking tobacco in pkgs (1,000 pounds).....	69	88	+27.5	520	585	+12.5
Smoking tobacco in bulk (1,000 pounds).....	316	331	+ 4.7	3,638	6,031	+65.8
Total declared value (million dollars).....	5.6	8.1	+44.6	59.0	71.6	+21.4

Compiled from records of the Bureau of the Census.

TURKISH TOBACCO MONOPOLY
RAISES PRODUCT PRICES

On November 20 of this year the prices of tobacco products sold in Turkey were raised 20 to 66 percent as part of a general price increase for all products handled by the Turkish Monopolies Administration except salt.

Cigarette tobacco prices were raised by the largest percentages--from 57 to 66 percent each. Cigarette prices were increased from 33 to 66 percent. The smallest percentage rise was in the price of pipe tobacco which went up only 20 percent.

The greatest increases were in the 2 lowest priced brands of cigarettes and in the lowest priced brand of cigarette tobacco. They were all raised in price from the equivalent of 10.7 U. S. cents per package to 17.9 U. S. cents per package.

CANADIAN CIGARETTE AND CIGAR
USE CONTINUES UPTREND

Canadians smoked a record quantity of cigars and cigarettes during the first 9 months of 1958.

Consumption of cigarettes (tax paid withdrawals) rose from 22.8 billion pieces in January-September 1957 to 24.3 billion in January-September 1958. Cigar withdrawals, at 232 million pieces in the first 9 months of 1958 were also considerably larger than for the same months of 1957.

Consumption of all other products except snuff were larger in the first 9 months of 1958 than in the same months a year earlier.

AUSTRALIAN TOBACCO
PRODUCTION UP

Production of tobacco in Australia in 1958 is expected to reach 11.5 million pounds, compared with 9.7 in 1957. This would make it the largest harvest since the 1932 crop of 12 million pounds. In recent years the crop has been much smaller; in 1947-51 it averaged only 3.6 million pounds annually.

Prices paid for Australian leaf are more than double U. S. prices. Production, however, has not expanded rapidly because of the difficulty and expense of growing tobacco in Australia. Prices and the use of expanded Australian production are upheld by a system of mixing regulations.

IRELAND'S 1959 SUGAR BEET PRICE
SAME AS LAST YEAR

The 1959 basic price to be paid by the Irish Sugar Company for sugar beets averaging 15.5 percent sugar content is unchanged from the 1958 price of 120s. per long ton (\$15.00 per short ton). This price is 18 cents per short ton above the 1957 basic price and \$1.06 above the 1956 price.

Other provisions of the Sugar Company's 1959 contract are the same as they were in 1957 and 1958. They include the addition or subtraction of 6 cents per ton for each 0.1 percent above or below 15.5 percent sugar content, and a bonus of from 30 to 63 cents per short ton if the country's total production exceeds the 1955-56 average.

The company again will pay a large part of transportation costs, and all pressed pulp purchased under the contract presumably will be delivered free of charge to the growers' nearest railway station, as was done in 1958.

BRAZIL PUTS PROCESSED COFFEE IN 4TH EXPORT EXCHANGE CATEGORY

On December 1, 1958, Brazil placed roasted and ground coffee in the 4th export category, which has an exchange rate of 92 cruzeiros per U. S. dollar. Soluble coffee, however, may still be exported at the free exchange rate.

MULTILATERAL TRANSACTION BETWEEN ARGENTINA, URUGUAY; AND SCANDINAVIA

Argentina has a favorable clearing balance of some \$6.5 million with Uruguay and \$1.5million of this is payable in dollars. This apparently is to be settled through a 4-way transaction whereby Sweden and Finland will ship cellulose pulp to Argentina and receive payment in the form of Uruguayan wool.

COMMONWEALTH SUGAR AGREEMENT EXTENDED

Extension of the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement to the end of 1966 was announced December 3, 1958, by the British Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The negotiated price for 1959 has been established at £45.2s. 0d per long ton (\$112.75 per short ton), compared with £43.16s. 8d per long ton (\$109.57 per short ton) in 1958. Negotiated price quotas for 1959 will be increased by 2½ percent above those for 1958 as follows:

Source	:1958 negotiated: : price quota :	Addition : : for 1959 :	:1959 negotiated : price quota
	: : Short : tons	: : Short : tons	: : Short : tons
Australia.....	336,000	: 8,400	: 344,400
West Indies and British Guiana....	716,800	: 17,920	: 734,720
British Honduras.....	1/ 4,032	: 1/ 101	: 1/ 4,133
Fiji.....	134,400	: 3,360	: 137,760
Mauritius.....	375,200	: 9,380	: 384,580
St. Vincent.....	1,176	: 29	: 1,205
South Africa.....	168,000	: 4,200	: 172,200
Total.....	1,735,608	: 43,390	: 1,778,998

1/ The arrangements made last year to enable British Honduras, as its production expands, to increase exports within its maximum quota under the Agreement will be continued in 1959.

FARM PRICE OF COFFEE REDUCED IN COLOMBIA

The Colombian Coffee Federation announced in the last week of November that it was reducing its purchase price for Federation grade coffee from \$53.81 per cargo of 276 pounds to \$48.11, effective for 2 months from the time of the announcement. (A purchase price of \$55.69 per cargo had been reduced only a few days earlier.)

The excelso price is now set at \$33.16 per bag of 15¹/₄ pounds, including the bagging, compared with \$36.08 previously. The new prices apply throughout Colombia except in the Bucaramanga, Cucuta, Rionegro, San Gil, and San Vicente markets, where the excelso price is \$31.90 per bag.

Federation grade is defined as dry pergamino for hulling with a maximum of 3 percent of guayaba and media-cara and a maximum of 5¹/₂ percent of pasilla and empty grains. Excelso is the same quality as that required for the issuance of export certificates.

The reduction in domestic prices is a reflection of the lower international market price for Colombian coffee, which has made it difficult for the Federation to pay prices higher than the \$48.11 to \$49.37 being paid by private buyers. Under the new announcement, the private buyers price is to be maintained at \$45.58 per cargo.

At the same time that it reduced its prices, the Coffee Federation stated that it would increase its purchasing countrywide to make its price-support efforts more effective.

NEW ZEALAND WOOL EXPORTS RISE IN JULY-SEPTEMBER

Exports of raw wool from New Zealand during the first quarter (July-September) of the 1958-59 season totaled 73.6 million pounds, actual weight, up 27 percent from a year earlier. The United Kingdom and the United States were the principal destinations, taking 31.1 million pounds and 16.6 million pounds, respectively.

U.K. WOOL CONSUMPTION UP SLIGHTLY IN OCTOBER

The rate of consumption of raw wool in the United Kingdom during October 1958 was 1 percent higher than in September 1958 and also October 1957. This marked the first month this year that it exceeded the same month a year earlier.

Woolen consumption was up 5 percent from the previous month and 3 percent higher than a year earlier. Mill use of merino wool was about the same as a year earlier, but consumption of crossbred was up 7 percent.

URUGUAYAN WOOL SALES LARGE IN OCTOBER

Declarations of wool sales--including tops--submitted by exporters to the Export-Import Control Board during the first month of the 1958-59 season beginning October totaled 43.7 million pounds, or about 17 percent of the estimated total exportable surplus. Purchases by Soviet Bloc countries totaled 10.6 million pounds. The principal Bloc buyer was Hungary, followed by the U.S.S.R., Communist China, and Czechoslovakia.

Exports of raw wool (greasy and scoured) during the 1957-58 season were approximately 96.4 million pounds, compared with 87.2 million pounds the previous season. Exports of tops declined to about 17.0 million pounds, compared with 24.6 million in the previous season.

NEW ZEALAND WOOL PRICES IMPROVE SLIGHTLY

Prices at the Napier double sale of New Zealand wool on November 19 and 21 were up 3 to 4 percent from the previous week's sale at Wanganui. Compared with the season's opening sale a month earlier, prices were also generally higher but sharply below a year earlier.

The offering of 43,388 bales continued to show the adverse effects of a dry winter and spring. The buying was fairly widespread, with Bradford notably less active. The United States, Sweden, and Japan were the principal buyers of paper felt types, and the United States continued to operate freely on carpet types.

Transactions by the New Zealand Wool Commission were small, with sales exceeding purchases. The Wool Commission announced that in mid-November it had stocks of 36,000 bales; it had purchased 60,000 bales and sold 24,000 bales up to that date.

Following is a comparison of this season's auction prices for selected types:

Description	Type	Dunedin Oct. 24	Wanganui Nov. 14	Napier Nov. 21
-- U. S. cents per pound --				
Crossbred fleece:				
Extra fine.....	93B : 50/56's	49.0	45.8	47.3
Fine.....	100B : 50's	43.8	43.8	45.2
Medium.....	114B : 46/50's	41.7	41.7	43.2
Strong.....	128B : 46/48's	41.1	41.7	43.5

Source: New Zealand Wool Commission.

NEW ZEALAND SENDS CHILLED BEEF TO U.S.

The first shipment of chilled beef from New Zealand has reached the United States. This trade is expected to expand when more shipping space becomes available, according to New Zealand trade sources. A growing demand for meat of this type is expected. The United States is already taking sizable quantities of prime New Zealand beef as frozen boneless cuts.

New Zealand exported 5 million pounds of chilled beef in the first half of 1958, most of it to the United Kingdom but some to Hawaii. New Zealand's exports of all types of meat to the United States and Hawaii rose from 41 million pounds in 1956-57 (October 1-September 30) to 179 million in 1957-58. Most of the exports were boneless beef from low-grade cows and bulls.

DEMAND FOR ANIMAL FATS IN YUGOSLAVIA IS SHIFTING

Consumption of edible fats and oils in Yugoslavia during 1958 increased slightly, and there was some shift from lard to vegetable fats and oils. Lower prices for vegetable oils, and the first appearance of U.S. shortening in local markets, increased demand for these products.

At the present rate of population growth and improvement in the Yugoslav diet, the increase in overall consumption of fats and oils is expected to continue. However, larger use of vegetable fats and oils and less use of lard is likely.

Lard production will increase slightly over the next few years and imports should, therefore, be somewhat smaller.

Larger imports of tallow are expected, since domestic production of tallow for soap making will not be able to keep pace with the increased demand for soap.

AUSTRALIA DEMONSTRATES SHRINK-PROOF WOOL

In late November the Australian Wool Bureau publicity demonstrated the "Dylan" process which prevents wool from shrinking when washed. This process was only recently introduced commercially although it was developed during World War II.

For the demonstration 2 wool cardigans, one treated and the other untreated, were machine-washed 45 minutes with hot water. The untreated garment was 8 inches shorter and was felted, while the treated garment was apparently unharmed. A Wool Bureau official stated that the process made wool shrink-proof, and that other new processes made wool moth-proof, more stain-resistant, and better suited to hold pleats and creases.

MEAT SHIPMENTS TO U. S.

From November 4 through November 17, 9 ships left Argentine ports with meat for the United States. Their cargos to original destinations were as follows:

Ports	: Corned beef :	: Roast beef :	: Salted and : cured beef :	: Horsemeat :
	: Metric tons :	: Metric tons :	: Metric tons :	: Metric tons :
East Coast.....	1051	: 17	: 2727	: 183
Gulf and Florida.....	149	: 44	: 196	: 0
West Coast.....	322	: 9	: 428	: 2
Total.....	1522	: 70	: 3351	: 185

From Australian ports, the ORONSAY sailed for Los Angeles on November 11 with 99 long tons of frozen beef, and the MARIPOSA sailed for San Francisco on November 19 with 98 long tons of frozen beef.

January 1959 sailings from New Zealand to the United States are scheduled as follows:

Ship and destination	: Sailing date :	: Meat cargo :
		<u>Tons</u>
West Coast ports:		
Saracen.....	January 10	600
Monterey.....	" 10	150
Orsova.....	" 22	100
Argentinean Reefer.....	" 28	1,000
Mariposa.....	" 31	200
East Coast ports:		
Brisbane Star.....	January 29	3,800

PARAGUAY BUYS WHEAT
FROM ARGENTINA

The Paraguayan Government advised the Government of Argentina early in December that Paraguay was willing to buy a total of 70,000 metric tons of Argentine wheat at \$61.40 U.S., f.o.b. Argentine ports located south of Santa Fe.

Shipments will begin this month and end in November 1959.

NICARAGUA NEEDS RICE

Nicaragua will have to import around 10 million pounds of milled rice in 1959. Production of some principal food crops, including rice, is reported to be the lowest in years.

U. S. GRASS AND LEGUME SEED EXPORTS
IN OCTOBER WELL ABOVE LAST YEAR'S

Unfavorable European seed harvests are reflected in heavy U. S. shipments in October this year compared with previous years. U. S. alfalfa seed exports in October were nearly 3 times those of last year, and fescue and bentgrass shipments were substantial.

The heavy October exports by the United States more than offset the light August and September shipments, and the 4-month total (July-October) is slightly larger than that of a year ago.

Principal buyers in October were Canada, United Kingdom, West Germany, Italy, France, Mexico, and Japan.

GRASS AND LEGUME SEEDS: U. S. exports, October 1957 and 1958,
and July 1 - October 31, 1957 and 1958

Kind of seed	October		July 1 to October 31	
	1957	1958	1957	1958
	<u>1,000</u> <u>pounds</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>pounds</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>pounds</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>pounds</u>
Alfalfa, certified.....	1/	795	1/	1/
Alfalfa, uncertified.....	1/	159	1/	1/
Alfalfa, total.....	373	954	2,187	1,717
Alsike.....	66	11	89	62
Ladino.....	1/	261	1/	1/
Clovers, other.....	397	264	1,145	1,174
Bentgrass.....	1/	542	1/	1/
Fescue.....	229	813	781	1,441
Kentucky bluegrass.....	42	246	134	520
Orchard grass.....	7	62	39	62
Redtop.....	78	93	104	109
Timothy.....	252	151	415	607
Grasses, other.....	1,279	609	2,977	2,559
Total.....	2,723	4,006	7,871	8,251

1/ Prior to January 1, 1958, certified and uncertified alfalfa combined; Ladino included in "other clovers"; and bentgrass included in "other grasses".

YUGOSLAVIA'S 1959 WINTER GRAIN GETS GOOD START

Yugoslavia's winter grain was seeded on schedule and germinated well. Virtually all the acreage intended for winter grains was seeded at latest report.

In the important grain area of the Vojvodina about 285,000 acres were seeded to high-yielding Italian varieties of wheat after deep plowing and good seedbed preparation, which has proved its worth in recent seasons. In addition, some Italian seed was put in without the deep plowing.

Wheat fields in the Vojvodina have developed well and the stand is reported excellent. Early-sown fields at the beginning of December were 263 inches high and of excellent color. Late-sown fields were just coming up. Good germination was aided by abundant rains in late October and early November.

PAKISTAN LEAVES WHEAT SUPPORT PRICE UNCHANGED

The Pakistan Government has announced that the guaranteed minimum producer price of 12.5 rupees per maund (\$1.92 per bushel) for wheat, which prevailed in 1957-58 (August-July), will be continued in 1958-59.

Pakistani farmers may sell their wheat either to the government at the guaranteed minimum, or to private traders at the regular market price. Since the government's guaranteed minimum is a floor price, regular market prices are usually the same or higher. The prices which private traders paid farmers for wheat in West Pakistan right after the harvest last spring were at the floor level.

The government's 1957-58 selling price of 12.75 rupees per maund (\$1.96 per bushel) for domestic wheat will also be retained in 1958-59. It costs the government about 1.5 rupees per maund (23 cents per bushel) to handle domestic wheat. As its selling price is only .25 rupees per maund (4 cents per bushel) above its buying price, the government is subsidizing Indian consumers of domestic wheat to the extent of 1.25 rupees per maund (19 cents per bushel).

Until 1957, the government deferred announcement of each season's guaranteed minimum producer wheat price until after the main harvest in April. Due to this practice, and other factors, the support price system did not generally increase domestic wheat production or stocks. Announcement of the 1958-59 guaranteed producer price at planting time this fall should encourage farmers to plant more wheat since they have early assurance of the guaranteed price for their crop.

Government purchases of 1957-58 crop domestic wheat totaled close to 350,000 metric tons (12.9 million bushels).

PRICES FOR U. S. AND COMMONWEALTH
CANNED PEACHES AND PEARS IN U. K.

Landed, duty-paid prices for Commonwealth (Australian and South African) and U. S. canned peaches and pears competing in the U. K. market were as follows in late November: U. S. peaches (halves, choice grade)--\$4.69 per dozen No. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cans; U. S. pears (choice grade)--\$5.48 per dozen No. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cans. Commonwealth prices for the same grades were \$4.20 and \$4.13, respectively.

The trade is reported to be making little distinction between Australian and South African canned fruit--little difference exists in prices for similar canned fruit from either country, and the prices closely approximate the previously determined minimum export levels.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT SHARES COST OF
FREIGHT INCREASE ON FEED GRAINS

The Canadian Cabinet on November 26 approved a 17-percent increase in rail freight rates, effective December 1st. This action prevented a nationwide rail tie-up which was to have started on December 1 if the increase had not been granted.

The increase will not apply to rates set for the export movement of grains from the Prairies to the Lakehead, Churchill, or Vancouver. These rates are fixed by federal statute under terms of the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement of 1899, and have not been changed since.

To relieve some of the burden that the increase will impose on farmers in Eastern Canada and British Columbia, the federal government has made adjustments, effective December 1, in the Feed Freight Assistance Policy, in effect since 1941. (It costs the Canadian Treasury from \$17 to \$18 million each year.)

On Western grains used for feeding purposes in Eastern Canada and British Columbia the new rail freight increase will approximate \$2.00 per ton. Under the Feed Freight Assistance Policy the federal government will pay part of the freight for feed wheat, oats, barley, rye, corn, mill-feeds, and screenings shipped into those sections. For feed grain railed to the extreme eastern portion of Quebec and the Maritimes, government assistance has been increased from \$6.50 per ton to \$7.50 per ton. On feed grain going to British Columbia, the government will pay an extra \$1.00 per ton--about half of the rail freight increase.

Over 80 percent of Western feed grains shipped to Ontario and Western Quebec arrive by water routes and are then delivered to farms by truck. Therefore, no increase in the present assistance of \$5.00 per ton is to be granted. Farmers in those areas will have to absorb the \$2.00-per-ton increase if they take delivery by rail. On agricultural commodities other than feed grains the farmer will have to pay the full increase in freight rates in all cases.

MEXICO LEAVES GUARANTEED PRODUCER PRICES FOR WHEAT AND CORN AT PRESENT LEVEL

Mexico's guaranteed producer price for wheat is being continued at 913 pesos per metric ton (\$1.99 per bushel) for hard red wheat f.o.b. the farmer's place of delivery, plus a storage payment of 14.70 pesos per ton (3.2 cents per bushel) per month. Most of Mexico's wheat is harvested in April and May and the storage payment begins in July.

Farmers may sell their wheat to CEIMSA (Compania Exportadora E Importadora Mexicana S.A.), a semi-governmental agency, at the guaranteed producer price, or to private traders at the regular market price. CEIMSA bought about 529,000 metric tons (19.4 million bushels) of 1958-crop wheat for price-support purposes. All of this wheat was purchased in the states of Sonora and Sinaloa, on the Gulf of California.

CEIMSA has sold about 149,000 tons (5.5 million bushels) of its 1958-crop purchases to flour mills. The remaining 380,000 tons (13.9 million bushels) will constitute a year-end carryover, since the mills are now fully supplied for the current season except for small quantities they will obtain from the small, fall-harvested wheat crop grown on unirrigated areas. They will buy this wheat from private traders.

Mexico is continuing its guaranteed producer price for corn at 800 pesos per metric ton (\$1.63 per bushel). Corn grown in Mexico is white corn. As in the case of wheat, Mexican farmers may sell their corn to CEIMSA at the guaranteed price, or to private traders at regular market prices. On September 30, 1958, CEIMSA owned 250,000 metric tons (9.8 million bushels) of domestic corn which it had purchased for price-support purposes from the irrigated crop harvested last winter and from the fall harvest which began the past September.

U.S. WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTS UP IN JULY-OCTOBER

U.S. wheat and flour exports in July-October 1958 came to 134.4 million bushels, slightly above those in the same months of 1957. Wheat exports were up 1.3 million bushels and flour 340,000 bushels.

Principal importers taking more wheat and flour in the 4-month period of 1958, with the amount of the increase shown in millions of bushels, were as follows: Yugoslavia, 5.4; the United Kingdom, 3.0; Brazil, 1.8; and West Germany, 1.1. India, Japan, and Poland are the other major markets for U.S. wheat and flour. Exports to those countries were down 9.1, 6.3, and 1.1 million bushels, respectively, from the same period in 1957.

Exports in July-November 1958 are preliminarily estimated at about 2 million bushels above the 163 million exported in the first 5 months in 1957.

WHEAT AND FLOUR: United States exports by country of destination,
July-October 1957 and July-October 1958

Destination	July-October 1957			July-October 1958		
	Wheat	Flour 1/	Total	Wheat	Flour 1/	Total
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bushels:	bushels:	bushels:	bushels:	bushels:	bushels:
Western Hemisphere:						
British West Indies	--	1,057:	1,057:	4:	1,080:	1,084
Central America	561:	1,484:	2,045:	546:	1,321:	1,867
Cuba	1,275:	1,260:	2,535:	1,479:	978:	2,457
Brazil	8,601:	2:	8,603:	10,438:	--	10,438
Chile	1,968:	67:	2,035:	--	16:	16
Colombia	2,237:	207:	2,444:	1,114:	65:	1,179
Peru	702:	151:	853:	2,005:	376:	2,381
Venezuela	192:	2,568:	2,760:	539:	1,462:	2,001
Others	333:	1,622:	1,955:	710:	1,230:	1,940
Total	15,869:	8,418:	24,287:	16,835:	6,528:	23,363
Europe:						
Belgium-Luxembourg ..	705:	6:	711:	2,327:	7:	2,334
Germany, West	6,917:	28:	6,945:	8,004:	7:	8,011
Netherlands	1,719:	1,177:	2,896:	3,413:	1,331:	4,744
Norway	--	246:	246:	830:	293:	1,123
Poland	10,228:	--	10,228:	9,131:	--	9,131
Sweden	444:	31:	475:	1,180:	5:	1,185
United Kingdom	6,183:	303:	6,486:	8,048:	1,414:	9,462
Yugoslavia	1,596:	2:	1,598:	7,016:	--	7,016
Others	2,808:	528:	3,336:	2,129:	721:	2,850
Total	30,600:	2,321:	32,921:	42,078:	3,778:	45,856
Asia:						
India	35,463:	15:	35,478:	29,206:	7:	29,213
Israel	2,400:	5:	2,405:	2,038:	4:	2,042
Japan	16,867:	654:	17,521:	7,859:	521:	8,380
Korea	2,573:	490:	3,063:	4,716:	309:	5,025
Lebanon	--	103:	103:	968:	475:	1,443
Pakistan	238:	--	238:	1,784:	2/	1,784
Philippine Republic :	--	3,308:	3,308:	317:	3,481:	3,798
Taiwan (Formosa).....	1,815:	5:	1,820:	2,247:	--	2,247
Turkey	1,957:	--	1,957:	1,003:	--	1,003
Others	639:	1,391:	2,030:	177:	2,479:	2,656
Total	61,952:	5,971:	67,923:	50,315:	7,276:	57,591
Africa	780:	2,162:	2,942:	1,035:	1,629:	2,664
Oceania	--	13:	13:	--	14:	14
Unspecified 3/	207:	4,472:	4,679:	417:	4,479:	4,896
World total	109,408:	23,357:	132,765:	110,680:	23,704:	134,384

1/ Wholly of U.S. wheat. 2/ Less than 500 bushels. 3/ Includes shipments for relief or charity which are not shown by destination.

Source: Bureau of the Census

ARGENTINE ONION ACREAGE LARGER

The Argentine Department of Agriculture estimates 1958-59 onion acreage at 26,500 acres, compared with 24,500 acres last season.

ECUADOR'S CASTOR BEAN CROP LARGER IN 1958

Ecuador's 1958 castor bean crop is estimated at almost 15,000 short tons, up one-fourth from 1957 but almost one-fourth less than the 1954-56 average output.

Although of relatively minor importance in Ecuador, castor beans earn an average of about \$1 million annually as a steady export item. Annual exports during 1954-57 averaged 7,933 tons, or 45 percent of average reported production. The oil and soap industry accounts for almost all of domestic consumption, which ranges between 10,000 and 11,000 tons a year.

CASTOR BEANS: Ecuador, production and exports, annual 1954-58
and January-March 1957 and 1958

Year	Production	Exports	Year	Production	Exports
	Short tons	Short tons		Short tons	Short tons
1954.....	23,325	10,643	1957.....	11,830	8,419
1955.....	17,190	7,151	Jan.-Mar....	---	1,433
1956.....	18,025	5,518	1958.....	14,880	6,600
			Jan.-Mar....	---	3,415

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Estimated.

Compiled from official sources.

Castor beans are grown mainly on the coastal plain of Ecuador and, to a lesser extent, in some provinces of the Sierra. They grow on poor land, and are often semi-wild. Intertilling with row crops is a common practice. In the past, if world demand was heavy, cultivation was successfully extended to more humid regions of the country.

Exports of castor beans in 1957 went largely to West Germany (69 percent of the total) and the Netherlands (23 percent). In 1956, the major markets were the Netherlands (54 percent) and the United States (28 percent). There is no export tax on castor beans.

BRAZIL PERMITS BABASSU OIL EXPORTS ON FREE-MARKET BASIS

Brazilian babassu oil soon may regain its position as one of the principal export products of the major producing State of Maranhao as a result of recent government action allowing exports of babassu oil on a free-market basis.

Maranhao trade circles welcome the action. Because of the former exchange regulations, no babassu oil has been exported from the state since 1951. (Only minor quantities were exported from other states during 1952-54, and none has been exported since 1954.) Maranhao's mills have been almost completely idle; they have not had enough income from the limited Brazilian market to compete with crushing mills in the south. Consequently, Maranhao producers have been selling kernels to crushers in Rio de Janeiro or Sao Paulo.

Now that sales on the U. S. market are again feasible, the Maranhao mills can afford to reopen. By mid-November, U. S. firms had already arranged to buy some 2,755 short tons of babassu oil from Maranhao to be shipped between November and the end of January. This represents about 4,400 tons of kernels, or about 5 percent of the state's annual crop.

Babassu firms in Maranhao which do not own crushing mills are now demanding that babassu kernels be put on the same favorable export basis as babassu oil. Kernel exports, which averaged 31,000 tons in 1935-39 and 27,000 tons in 1945-49, have declined sharply in recent years. No kernels were exported in 1952 and 1953, and only 4,000 tons were shipped in 1957. The United States has been Brazil's major market for both kernels and oil.

INDONESIA'S REGISTERED COPRA EXPORTS DOWN, PALM OIL UP

Indonesia's registered exports of copra in October were 10,037 long tons, nearly twice those of September but about one-fourth those of October 1957. January-October shipments totaled 47,881 tons, about one-fifth the volume reported for the first 10 months of 1957.

Copra cake exports in October were 11,315 long tons, bringing total shipments in January-October to 89,002 tons. This is a decline of 8 percent from the first 10 months of 1957.

Palm oil exports in October were 15,214 short tons. Shipments in January-October totaled 115,112 tons, an increase of 4 percent from the comparable period last year. Palm kernel exports in October were 3,866 short tons, bringing total shipments in the first 10 months of the year to 29,575 tons -- one-fifth below January-October 1957 exports.

INDONESIA ESTABLISHES COPRA PURCHASING AGENCY

The government-owned Central Trading Company of Indonesia has been appointed sole buyer and shipper of copra from North and Central Celebes, and also sole shipper of all daily necessities for that area, including, among other items, gunny sacks for packing copra. The appointment of the Central Trading Company for these functions was made October 8, 1958, in a decree of the Prime Minister.

The decree stipulated that allocations of copra for export and for domestic use would be fixed by the Department of Internal Trade and the Export Department of the Ministry of Trade, and that the Export Department would issue licenses for copra shipments from North and Central Celebes area to the Central Trading Company exclusively.

As the exclusive copra purchasing agency, the Central Trading Company was to make its first shipment of copra on November 30. It was expected that 28,000 tons would be shipped in December to ports in Europe and to Communist China. This quantity would be roughly double the copra tonnage reportedly smuggled to Tawao (North Borneo) every month from Sulawesi and East Kalimantan.

PHILIPPINE COPRA AND COCONUT OIL EXPORTS DOWN ONE-FIFTH FROM LAST YEAR

Philippine copra and coconut oil exports in January-November were 515,453 long tons, oil basis, a decline of about one-fifth from those of the comparable 1957 period.

Copra exports in November were less than 60 percent of the volume shipped in November 1957. January-November exports were down 25 percent from the first 11 months last year.

Coconut oil shipments in November were about 65 percent of those in November 1957. Exports in the first 11 months of the year were only slightly below comparable 1957 shipments. Desiccated coconut shipments in January-November totaled 50,323 short tons. The United States was the chief market, taking nearly 95 percent of the total.

The Philippine copra export price in mid-December was about \$225.00 to \$235.00 per short ton c.i.f. Pacific Coast (mid-November \$227.50; mid-October \$200.00). Local buying prices were reported at 49 to 50 pesos per 100 kilograms (\$248.93 to \$254.01 per long ton) rescada Manila and 41 to 50 pesos per 100 kilograms (\$208.29 to \$254.01 per long ton) in producing areas.

COPRA: Philippine Republic, exports by country of destination,
November and January-November 1957 and 1958

Country of destination	1957 1/		1958 1/	
	November	January-November	November	January-November
	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons
North America:				
United States.....	26,463	262,135	21,752	241,688
Atlantic Coast.....	(---)	(23,962)	(---)	(---)
Pacific Coast.....	(26,463)	(238,173)	(21,752)	(241,688)
Canada.....	---	8,367	---	1,800
Panama.....	---	---	---	2,662
Total.....	26,463	270,502	21,752	246,150
South America:				
Chile.....	---	---	200	200
Columbia.....	6,791	60,141	---	34,953
Venezuela.....	7,205	33,127	2,192	18,161
Total.....	13,996	93,268	2,392	53,314
Europe:				
Belgium.....	---	8,000	---	9,500
Denmark.....	2,600	31,125	500	14,800
France.....	1,000	2,500	1,250	11,560
Germany, West.....	10,500	54,184	3,500	52,465
Italy.....	---	19,337	---	12,860
Netherlands.....	35,021	320,082	18,447	191,665
Norway.....	1,500	19,851	---	10,000
Spain.....	---	---	---	100
Sweden.....	3,250	34,500	---	25,565
Optional discharge 2/	---	31,000	7,450	47,852
Total.....	53,871	520,579	31,147	376,367
Asia:				
Israel.....	---	8,000	---	3,020
Japan.....	---	6,784	---	500
Lebanon.....	800	7,900	---	4,200
Total.....	800	22,684	---	7,720
Grand total..	95,130	907,033	55,291	683,551

1/ Preliminary. 2/ West Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, or Italy.

Source: Philippine trade sources.

COCONUT OIL: Philippine Republic, exports by country of destination
November and January-November 1957 and 1958

Country of destination	1957 1/		1958 1/	
	November	January-November	November	January-November
	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons
North America:				
United States.....	8,256	73,669	5,247	79,652
Atlantic Coast.....	(7,956)	(70,841)	(5,247)	(75,407)
Pacific Coast.....	(300)	(1,652)	(---)	(4,245)
Gulf Coast.....	(---)	(1,176)	(---)	(---)
Cuba.....	---	1,045	---	350
Total.....	8,256	74,714	5,247	80,002
Europe:				
Germany, West.....	---	1,540	---	---
Netherlands.....	---	8,126	---	4,814
Optional discharge 2/	---	850	---	---
Total.....	---	10,516	---	4,814
Grand total..	8,256	85,230	5,247	84,816

1/ Preliminary. 2/ West Germany or Netherlands.

Source: Philippine trade sources.

WEST GERMANY ANNOUNCES IMPORT TENDERS FOR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

West Germany announced on December 9 the following commodity tenders for imports from the dollar area: onions; concentrated juices of raspberries, plums, blackberries, and pineapple in containers of at least 3 kilograms; single-strength apple, pear, and grape juice; single-strength citrus juices with sugar added; other fruit juices with sugar added; canned pineapple; canned center cuts of asparagus; and plant extracts for beverage production.

All onions licensed for import must clear customs by May 31, 1959. All other commodities may be landed any time during calendar year 1959.

A few items conspicuously missing from this list are expected to be liberalized as of January 1, 1959. These include citrus juice concentrates in large containers and single-strength citrus juices without sugar added.

U. S. RICE EXPORTS UP IN OCTOBER

U. S. rice exports in October, at 1,411,000 bags (100 pounds) of milled rice, were up substantially from the 1,131,000 bags exported in October 1957. Exports increased to all continents; the largest quantities went to Cuba, the Philippines, and Ceylon.

Rice exports of 4,021,000 bags in the first quarter (August-October) of the 1958-59 marketing year exceeded the 3,081,000 bags exported in the same months of 1957-58. Asian countries--principally the Philippine Republic and Ceylon--took 43 percent, and North American countries 35 percent, of total exports.

Exports to Europe increased significantly; those to West Germany and the United Kingdom amounted to 264,000 and 104,000 bags, respectively, whereas there were no exports to those countries in the same months of 1957. Larger exports to the Netherlands, Belgium-Luxembourg, Sweden, Greece, and Switzerland also contributed to the overall increase in shipments to Europe.

First-quarter exports to North America were up from last year, but little rice was shipped to South America. Exports to Cuba were 292,000 bags more, and shipments to Nicaragua rose sharply above those of recent years. On the other hand, first-quarter exports to Canada were slightly less.

RICE: United States exports, in terms of milled, to specified countries,
October 1958, with comparisons 1/

Country of destination	August- July		August-October		October <u>2/</u>	
	1956-57	1957-58	1957	1958 <u>2/</u>	1957	1958
	bags	bags	bags	bags	bags	bags
Western Hemisphere:						
Canada	376:	293 :	66 :	64 :	34 :	35
British Honduras	33:	24 :	0 :	1 :	0 :	0
British West Indies	137:	103 :	5 :	3 :	4 :	1
Cuba	4,054:	4,246 :	991 :	1,283 :	521 :	603
Guatemala	29:	68 :	17 :	3/ :	7 :	3/
Haiti	58:	14 :	3/ :	3 :	3/ :	1
Netherlands Antilles	42:	54 :	11 :	14 :	3 :	4
Nicaragua	3:	5 :	0 :	33 :	0 :	10
Bolivia	176:	44 :	0 :	0 :	0 :	0
Peru	3/ :	980 :	3/ :	2 :	0 :	0
Venezuela	40:	2 :	2 :	0 :	0 :	0
Other countries	71:	62 :	9 :	13 :	3 :	2
Total	5,019:	5,895 :	1,101 :	1,416 :	572 :	656
Europe:						
Belgium-Luxembourg	686:	76 :	40 :	66 :	16 :	15
West Germany	20:	30 :	0 :	264 :	0 :	6
Greece	13:	23 :	3 :	12 :	2 :	6
Netherlands	50:	14 :	3/ :	47 :	0 :	4
Sweden	16:	12 :	4 :	17 :	2 :	6
Switzerland	58:	32 :	10 :	15 :	10 :	1
United Kingdom	0:	34 :	0 :	104 :	0 :	43
Other countries	27:	6 :	1 :	12 :	1 :	2
Total	870:	227 :	58 :	537 :	31 :	83
Asia:						
Ceylon	0:	331 :	0 :	445 :	0 :	222
India	4,376:	0 :	0 :	0 :	0 :	0
Indonesia	5,424:	753 :	0 :	89 :	0 :	0
Japan	109:	5 :	1 :	10 :	1 :	1
Korea, Republic of	2,746:	242 :	121 :	0 :	0 :	0
Pakistan	4,372:	3,453 :	1,295 :	0 :	272 :	0
Philippine Republic	20:	554 :	0 :	1,106 :	0 :	348
Saudi Arabia	98:	151 :	30 :	26 :	27 :	4
Other Arabian States	22:	107 :	88 :	35 :	24 :	11
Turkey	218:	0 :	0 :	0 :	0 :	0
Other countries	18:	28 :	2 :	3 :	0 :	0
Total	17,403:	5,624 :	1,537 :	1,714 :	324 :	586
Total Oceania	47:	52 :	14 :	15 :	2 :	1
French Somaliland	0:	6 :	0 :	25 :	0 :	4
Liberia	248:	270 :	82 :	101 :	16 :	20
Other Africa	19:	17 :	1 :	6 :	0 :	5
Destination not specified	13:	17 :	5 :	6 :	2 :	2
Total exports (Census)	23,619:	12,108 :	2,798 :	3,820 :	947 :	1,357
Ryukyu Islands <u>4/</u>	207:	145 :	0 :	0 :	0 :	0
Section 416 donations	2,036:	683 :	283 :	201 :	184 :	54
Ground rough rice for animal feed <u>5/</u>	288:	0 :	0 :	0 :	0 :	0
World total	26,150:	12,936 :	3,081 :	4,021 :	1,131 :	1,411

1/ Includes brown, broken, screenings and bawers' rice and rough rice converted to terms of milled at 65 percent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 500 bags. 4/ Programed by ICA and shipped by the Army. 5/ Sold by Commodity Credit Corporation.

Source: Bureau of the Census and Department of Agriculture.

U. K.'S COTTON INDUSTRY
LESS ACTIVE IN 1957-58

Cotton imports into the United Kingdom during the 1957-58 season (August-July) were 1,450,000 bales (500 pounds gross), a decline of 18 percent from imports of 1,773,000 bales in 1956-57. Imports were smaller from all principal supplying countries except Nigeria, Mexico, Iran, Pakistan, Egypt, Syria, and El Salvador.

Imports of U. S. cotton came to 816,000 bales, or 56 percent of total cotton received, against 1,088,000 bales, or 61 percent of the total in 1956-57.

Quantities imported from principal sources in 1957-58, with comparable 1956-57 figures in parentheses, were: United States 816,000 bales (1,088,000); Sudan 147,000 (153,000); Nigeria 80,000 (53,000); Mexico 67,000 (43,000); Peru 58,000 (81,000); Iran 40,000 (19,000); Uganda 24,000 (28,000); Brazil 18,000 (34,000); U.S.S.R. 18,000 (29,000); Turkey 18,000 (57,000); Paraguay 17,000 (21,000); Pakistan 15,000 (12,000); Aden 15,000 (25,000); Nicaragua 13,000 (32,000); Egypt 13,000 (278); Syria 12,000 (10,000); India 10,000 (20,000); and El Salvador 10,000 (3,000). Imports during the first 2 months of the 1958-59 season (August-September) were 178,000 bales, compared with 245,000 bales a year earlier.

Cotton consumption in the United Kingdom, at 1,479,000 bales in 1957-58, was down 6 percent from consumption of 1,568,000 bales in 1956-57. The decline was attributed to a decline in textile exports and an increase in textile imports from Commonwealth areas of Asia. Some further decline in consumption is expected in 1958-59. In August 1958, 105,000 bales were used, compared with 132,000 bales in August 1957.

The contraction in the textile industry's operations that began 5 years ago continued at a more rapid rate in 1957-58. Mill closures were more frequent and there were further cuts in employee numbers. Leading cotton industrialists in the United Kingdom believe that the industry's machine capacity is too large. Consequently, they believe that the contraction will continue, resulting in a smaller and more compact industry.

Cotton stocks on July 31, 1958, were estimated at 550,000 bales compared with 600,000 bales a year earlier.

Prices for upland cotton on the Liverpool market have declined since January 1958 by as much as 7 to 8 cents a pound for some foreign growths, and 2 to 2½ cents for 8 or 10 quoted qualities of U. S. cotton. By November 1958, prices of designated qualities of some foreign growths had declined to postwar lows. Price declines in recent months reflect larger foreign textile inventories and weaker consumer demand. Larger actual and prospective supplies of cotton have exerted pressure on the market, and importers have limited purchases to current needs.

Recent prices, c.i.f. Liverpool for U. S. and comparable foreign growths were:

COTTON: C.i.f. prices at Liverpool, U. S. and comparable foreign growths, December 11, 1958

Country	Quality	Comparable U.S. quality	Price per pound		Shipment period
			Foreign	U. S.	
			<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>	
Pakistan.....	Punjab				
	: 289F SG	: M 1"	: 29.21	: 29.73	: December
Mexico.....	Matamoros				
	: M 1-1/32"	: M 1-1/32"	: 26.00	: 31.25	: December
Syria.....	: SM 1-1/32"	: SM 1-1/32"	: 28.04	: 32.36	: December
U.S.S.R.....	: SM 1-1/32"	: SM 1-1/32"	: 28.62	: 32.36	: December
Iran.....	: SM 1-1/16"	: SM 1-1/16"	: 28.92	: 33.18	: December

U. S. COTTON IMPORTS DECLINE IN SEPTEMBER

U. S. imports of cotton (for consumption) were equivalent to 23,000 bales in September 1958, down considerably from imports of 85,000 bales in August, and also below imports of 31,000 bales in September 1957. Most of the September imports were upland type cotton under 1-1/8 inches from Mexico. The annual quota of 8,883,259 pounds (about 18,500 bales of 500 pounds gross) for Mexico under the upland type quota was filled on September 20, the opening day of the 1958-59 quota year.

Cotton imports during the first 2 months (August-September) of the 1958-59 season totaled 108,000 bales, compared with 39,000 bales a year earlier. Imports included small quantities of short, harsh Asiatic cotton which has not been subject to quotas since January 28, 1958. Most of this year's increase was due to larger imports from Egypt and Peru under the global quota for long staple (cotton 1-1/8 inches or more). This quota, which permits imports of about 95,000 bales, is filled except for a small quantity of Tanguis type.

Sources of August-September 1958 imports, with comparable 1957 figures in parentheses, were: Egypt 57,986 bales (12,502); Peru 24,486 (2,574); Mexico 22,957 (20,875); Aden 1,017 (0); India 683 (188); Pakistan 579 (2,719); Sudan 545 (19); and Brazil 39 (0).

Official Business

U. S. EXPORTS LESS
COTTON IN OCTOBER

U. S. exports of cotton (all types) in October 1958 were 188,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (181,000 running bales), down 15 percent from September exports of 221,000 bales.

Exports during August-October 1958 totaled 623,000 bales (602,000 running bales), against 1,249,000 bales in the corresponding 1957 period. Destinations of the October exports will be published in Foreign Crops and Markets next week.

TRANSSHIPMENTS OF MEXICAN
COTTON UP IN AUGUST

Transshipments of Mexican cotton through United States ports in August 1958, were 81,000 bales (500 pounds gross). This compares with 45,000 bales in July and 64,000 bales in August 1957.

Quantities transshipped to principal destinations in August 1958, with August 1957 figures in parentheses, were: West Germany 21,000 bales (9,000); United Kingdom 11,000 (13,000); Italy 10,000 (5,000); Spain 9,000 (0); Belgium 7,000 (12,000); Switzerland 6,000 (4,000); and the Netherlands 6,000 (5,000).